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Application No. 09/954,861
Docket: 1039co2

SEP 11 2003

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b.) Remarks

Claims 1-26 are pending in this application. Claim 1, 10, 14, 15, and 17 have been amended in various particulars as indicated hereinabove. New Claims 18 through 26 have been added to alternatively define Applicant's invention.

Turning now to the merits, claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Aksyuk patent. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

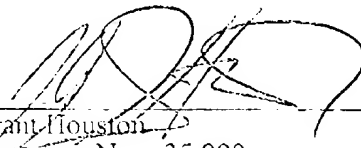
The Aksyuk patent does not show or suggest the claimed technique for patterning the mirrors 24. Shadow-masking, for example, seems consistent with the description in the patent. See Aksyuk at Col. 9, first paragraph. Absent a suggestion to use a mask in the patterning process, the present claims are not obvious in light of the applied reference.

Further, the Aksyuk patents does not suggest the lift-off process described in claim 10 or the mask patterning in new claim 18.

Thus, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. Should any questions arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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